

News Release

For Immediate Release

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SATURDAY DEADLINE FOR WIC PARTICIPANTS TO USE COUPONS IN FRESH VEGETABLE PROGRAM

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program have an important announcement for everyone involved in the WIC program in Hinds and Bolivar County. Saturday, October 17, 1998 is the last day you can redeem Farmers Market Nutrition Program coupons. All coupons must be redeemed at farmers markets in Jackson and Mound Bayou.

The Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) is currently established in 30 states and 3 Indian Tribal Organizations (including the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians). Its mission is to provide a limited benefit (\$14 per year per state recipient) in the form of coupons to low-income, nutritionally at-risk women, infants and children. In addition, the program seeks to expand the use of farmers markets and increase consumption of fresh, nutritious fruits and vegetables.

Mississippi began participating in the program on a pilot basis in two counties, Hinds and Bolivar, this year. Officials hope to expand the program to other counties in 1999.

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Note: This program only applies to WIC recipients in Hinds and Bolivar Counties.